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Docket No. AUS920010292US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

AUTHORIZATION MODEL FOR ADMINISTRATION

An administration model is provided that uses access control lists to define permissions for users and groups of users. The model identifies a number of objects to be administered. Associated with each of these objects is a set of administrative operations that can be performed on the object. For each of these operations a permission in an access control list entry is defined. The protected resources are arranged in a hierarchical fashion and an access control list can be associated with any point in the hierarchy. The access control list provides fine-grained control over the protected resources. At the time an administrator requests to perform an operation, the administrator's identification is used to look up the prevailing access control list to determine whether the operation is permitted.